

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1 – 10 will be pending.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's continued attention and consideration.

The Applicant notes that the Examiner's rejections and remarks contained in the Office Action appear to focus on the claims (numbered 1 – 6) submitted as part of the literal translation of German language priority application WO 2005/071274, included with the original application filing documents. The original U.S. application included claims numbered 1 – 10 which had been amended to, *inter alia*, eliminate multiple dependencies.

The Applicant regrets any inconvenience, and to facilitate continued examination, provides amendments and remarks pertaining to the originally submitted claims 1 – 10 which are reconciled, as much as possible, with the Office Action.

The Specification is objected to for containing certain informalities.

A clean copy of the original application, including the specification, claims (1 – 10) and drawing (1 sheet) is appended hereto, which is a true copy of the originally filed application. The Applicant submits that the originally submitted application complied with U.S. formalities, including provision of appropriate headings and reference to the claims.

In view of the forgoing remarks, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

A reprise of the originally filed claims 1 – 10 are believed to have been revised (from their literal translated form) to eliminate known grammatical and idiomatic errors. In addition, claims 1 – 6 are further amended herein to provide further clarification and characterization as article claims.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 5 and 6 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. Claims 5 and 6 have not been considered on their merits.

Originally submitted claims 1 – 10 were revised to eliminate all multiple dependencies, rendering this objection moot.

In view of the forgoing remarks, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 1 and 2, as best understood by the Examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants admitted prior art in view of **Banta et al.** (U.S. 2,852,843).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish over the art of record, and now specifies:

A pyromechanical securing element for mechanical connection of two components, said securing element comprising:

*a generally cylindrical covering, including an expandable head part;
a pyrotechnic propellant charge disposed within said head part, which borders on an adapter; and*

means disposed on a rear part of the covering distal said head part for registering with concentric through passages in adjacent first and second components to be interconnected, wherein the covering, at its head part, has frangible break notches running in longitudinal direction operable to tear open the covering in the head region upon ignition of the propellant charge to bend separated head part portions around the adapter, as a result of which the first component is firmly connected to the second component, wherein

- *the adapter defines a groove extending about the outer periphery thereof,*
- *the covering defines, a radially projecting collar is arranged on the outer surface of the covering,*
- *the groove in the adapter is aligned with the collar of the covering, and*
- *at least one part of the collar is pressed into the groove to anchor the covering with the adapter.*

The Applicant respectfully submits that **Banta et al.** does not constitute relevant prior art, and would not be obvious to combine with APA.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 3 and 4, as best understood by the Examiner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified Applicants admitted prior art as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of **Coppack et al.** (U.S. 3,152,392).

The Applicant respectfully submits that **Coppack et al.** does not constitute relevant prior art, and would not be obvious to combine with APA.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claim 7 and dependent claims 8 – 10, which were submitted with the originally filed application, have not been considered in the subject Office Action. However, they are deemed to be in allowable form for the reasons set forth herein above.

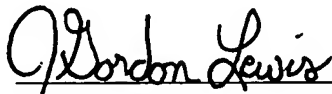
Conclusion

Applicant believes, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Gordon Lewis", is written over a horizontal line.

J. Gordon Lewis – 28,735
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